

## Southeast Region

# Hurricane Katrina Report

September 1, 2005

### *Hurricane Katrina -*

### *The FWS Incident Management*

### *Team, operating out of*

### *Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR*

### *has determined that all FWS*

### *employees have been accounted*

### *for. Due to inaccessibility due to*

### *devastation resulting from*

### *Hurricane Katrina, sixteen*

### *Refuges will remain closed until*

### *further notice. As of Wednesday,*

### *August 31, 2005, our mission has*

### *changed from recovery of Service*

### *resources to that of humanitarian*

### *relief. Multiple Service locations*

### *have already deployed personnel*

### *and assets toward this goal.*

### *Current focus is to render*

### *assistance without placing our*

### *personnel and additional*

### *resources at risk. Since further*

### *assessment of our field locations*

### *will not be taking place, today is*

### *the last day that damage status*

### *will be included in this report*

### *until our mission objective*

### *reverts back to Service recovery*

### *operations.*

### **Damage Status**

#### *Alabama*

**Bon Secour NWR** - CLOSED: all employees accounted for. Typical storm damage to trees and natural resources with erosion and flooding causing habitat damage. Some boardwalks may have damage.

**Choctaw NWR** - CLOSED: all employees are accounted for and have to clear trees to get out of their homes. No injuries or damage to homes. Office intact with power. Refuge 40 miles from Office: assessment not available.

**Ecological Services Field Office - Daphne** - All employees accounted for. No injuries. Minor damages and clean up reported. No phone service at office. Damage assessment pending.

**Grand Bay NWR** - All employees accounted for. Status pending.

**Office of Law Enforcement - Daphne** - Employee accounted for. No power/phone.

#### *Arkansas*

All Arkansas Refuges **Central Arkansas Complex**: Bald Knob, Wapanocca, Big Lake, Cache River; **South Arkansas Complex**: Felsenthal, Overflow, Oakwood, Pond Creek; **Holla Bend**; and **White River NWR** have indicated that all personnel are accounted for. No damage to facilities.

**White River NWR** - has some limbs down on Refuge interior roads, as would be typical for a wind storm.

#### *Florida*

**Panama City Ecological Services Field Office** - All employees accounted for. No damage. Substation at Eglin AFB has re-opened. SCEP student on leave in school at Baton Rouge and has family in New Orleans - attempting to contact.

#### *Louisiana*

**Baton Rouge FRO** - All accounted for. Damage pending.

**Bayou Cocodrie** - All employees are accounted for. No injuries or damage to homes, but no one has power to his home. Minor damage: significant number of limbs/trees down on trails. All 20 mobility impaired and youth hunt deer blinds are damaged. Camp (intern) house has significant roof damage.

**Breton NWR** - CLOSED: Status pending.

**Catahoula NWR** - all employees accounted for. No significant damage. Refuge wide, limbs are down. Apparently minor roof damage to office. No apparent water damage inside.

**Central Louisiana Refuge Complex** (Lake Ophelia, Grand Cote, Cat Island - CLOSED) - All employees accounted for. No damage to employee houses. No damage to Refuge facilities or structures at Lake Ophelia or Grand Cote. Cat Island NWR has several trees down and suffered minor damage to boardwalk.

**Mandalay NWR** - CLOSED: (Bayou Teche NWR) - all employees are accounted for and damage assessment pending.

**Natchitoches NFH** - All employees accounted for. No injuries or damage.

**North LA Refuges** - All employees accounted for. No injuries. No damage to employees' Refuge facilities/structures.

**Southeast LA Complex** - CLOSED: (Atchafalaya, Bayou Sauvage, Big Branch Marsh, Bogue Chitto, Breton, Delta, Shell Keys): Employees are accounted for. Refuge manager sure that the two employees unavailable for contact were evacuated to Stone County, MS. Significant damage to employee homes. Damage to Refuge facilities and/or structures is significant. Because ingress and egress to Complex facilities is blocked by debris, it will take significant effort to obtain damage assessments. 500 trees down.



**Southwest LA Complex** (Sabine, Cameron Prairie, Lacassine) - All employees accounted for. No damage to facility. One employee on annual leave; no word on status of home. Phone and fax service out. Had 1,000 acre wildfire yesterday, probably of human origin.

**Tensas River NWR** - CLOSED: All employees accounted for. No power. Tree top came down of Service residence severely damaging roof rendering it uninhabitable. Refuge not operational 8/30/05.

**Office of Law Enforcement - Port of Entry- New Orleans** - CLOSED - Employee accounted for. Unable to reach airport and Slidell offices. Attempt to do fly over 8/31/05 for damage assessment.

**Office of Law Enforcement - Slidell** - CLOSED - Employee accounted for. Major damage to and loss of homes in Slidell. Unable to reach Slidell and airport offices. Employees will have major needs when able to return and assess damage to homes. Plans to do fly over 8/31/05 for damage assessment.

**Ecological Services Field Office (Lafayette)** - Employees accounted for. No damage or injuries. Phone and internet are down.

**Fish Resource Coordination Office - Baton Rouge** - Employees accounted for. Damage pending.

#### Mississippi

**Grand Bay NWR** - CLOSED: all employees accounted for. Status pending.

**Gulf Coast Fish Resource Coordination Office** - CLOSED - All employees accounted for. Assessment of damage pending.

**Jackson Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office** - CLOSED - All employees accounted for.

**Private John Allen NFH** - All employees accounted for. No damage.

**Lower Mississippi River Coordination Office - Vicksburg** - All employees accounted for. Minor damage.

**Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR** - CLOSED: All employees accounted for: Refuge areas devastated with some employees losing their home to wind and tidal surge. Some damage to buildings but they're still structurally standing.

**North MS Complex** - All employees accounted for. No significant damage reported.

**Noxubee NWR** - CLOSED: All employees accounted for. Inaccessible. No power or phone. A lot of trees down in the area. Manager has tree on personal vehicle.

**Office of Law Enforcement Jackson Field Office** - CLOSED - Employees accounted for (co-located with Jackson MS Ecological Services)

**St. Catherine Creek NWR** - CLOSED: All employees accounted for. No power or phone. Minimal damage. Some limbs and trees down.

**Theodore Roosevelt Complex** (Yazoo, Panther Swamp, Morgan Brake, Hillside, Mathews Brake) - Some trees down around Refuge. Preliminary assessment: no significant damage.

#### Tennessee

**Tennessee NWR** - Two to three inches of rain and minor erosion of roads/levees. No major problems.

#### **Assistance provided**

Initial 40-person Incident Management Team has been on-site in Gautier, MS since 8/30/05.

Various Service locations have deployed additional personnel and assets to aid in Service mission objectives.

**Daphne ES Field Office** - Staff departed 8/31/05 with an office vessel to help with evacuations in New Orleans.

**Lafayette ES Field Office** - Staff were unsuccessful in attempting to reach Service boats and aircraft (8/30) to assist by spotting those in need and directing surface vessels to those locations. Staff assisted in local relief efforts at Blackham Coliseum Pet Shelter. At 3:00 am (8/31/05), seven DOI qualified boat operators departed pulling (2) FWS boats and (1) NMFS boat to the joint surface incident command center on I-10 at Causeway Blvd. in New Orleans.

#### **Additional information**

Media contact coordination is being handled by the Regional Office of External Affairs at 404/679 7287.